

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Meeting Minutes
May 01, 2006

Chair Sandy Booher called the meeting of the Chattanooga Mayor's Council on Disability to order at 3:00pm, in room 1A of the Development Resource Center and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the room: Matt Lea, Council liaison; Phillip Stevens, 311 services; Susan Crisp, Therapy Recreation with City; Gina Turley, AIM Center; Bea Lyons, Council Vice-Chair; Sandra Booher, Council Chair; Anna Ruth Palmer, replacing Richard Parker on Council; Jill Hindman, member of Executive Committee; Karl Epperson, Chair of Public Awareness and Education Committee; Dr. Rick Rader, Orange Grove Center; Mary Ann Schenk, the ARC of Tennessee; Virginia Piper, parent and visitors: Darwin Ayscue, interpreter; Daniel Eimers, interpreter; Katye Jones, Merrill Lynch Families of Children with Disabilities Program; Steve Powell, Signal Centers; and Kathy Lutes, Chattanooga State Disabilities Support Services.

Bea Lyons presented the minutes for the April 03, 2006 meeting that were approved as prepared. She also distributed official approved copies of the March 06, 2006 meeting minutes.

Old Business:

Matt Lea, liaison to the Mayor's Office, reported on the Wounded Warrior Bicycle Ride Project that is comprised of veterans who are disabled. A group of these veterans will be riding through Chattanooga on May 31st, and will be recognized at a reception to be held at the Warner Pavilion at Coolidge Park at 6:00pm, on that day. These veterans are bicycling from California to New York with a stop in our city to gather with local veterans at the park. Everyone is invited to go out and join the fun.

Jill Hindman reported on Go-Fest planning; there will be another meeting of the committee on May 9th, at 10:00am, at the Development Resource Center. (This meeting was later changed to

May 16, at 10:00am.) Everyone needs to support this important Go-Fest Celebration to assist Friends of the Festival with making the event accessible for people with disabilities. While the festival is designed to help people with disabilities know what is available in the area, we want to focus on inclusion for the whole community.

The Council will have its own web site up and running by Friday, May 05, that can be accessed through the city web site. The web site can also be accessed directly at www.mcd.chattanooga.gov. There will be numerous links to the web site for public access and awareness. There is a need to update the Go-Fest web site, too; members of the Council should provide suggestions and input for that site.

Chair Booher reported on the plans for the ADA Codes Enforcement Inspectors Workshop to be presented Monday, May 22, 2006, 8:30-11:00am. The agenda is set and presenters are ready. Sandy Booher, Bea Lyons, Jeff Burner, Jill Hindman, Karl Epperson, Ruth Palmer, Gina Turley, and Matt Lea will participate.

New Business:

Katye Jones, Assistant Vice President with the Merrill Lynch Families of Children with Disabilities Program, provided information on a special program of services that is available to help parents plan for the financial future of their children with disabilities. Ms. Jones began her presentation by sharing the personal stories of her sister Diane who was born with brain damage and another sister with Lou Gehrig's disease who has already outlived her life expectancy. Merrill Lynch has established a panel made up of two advocates and an elder care attorney, Dana Perry, who can assist parents with taking care of the future financial needs of their disabled children. Ms. Jones' goal is to conduct panels through Siskin Children's Institute, Signal Centers, and other agencies serving special needs populations and to explain about the Merrill Lynch program so parents can prepare for the future. Children with disabilities are living longer because of better medical care; so, we want to ensure that we don't neglect the government supplements for which they are entitled. Katye Jones wishes to share her gift with the members of the Council and with others in the community.

The Council will celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act by doing something special again this year during the month of July. Last year's ADA's 15th anniversary celebration was held at Coolidge Park. Chair Booher asked for volunteers who would like to help with planning for this celebration. Ideas for the ADA celebration were shared such as an art show or a traveling exhibit, a trade show kind of event with exhibitors and booths, possible locations with disability access and fundraising efforts. It was noted that the Convention Center has Infra-red assistive listening devices available upon request and the Imax Theatre has descriptive video service. The Council will continue this discussion at its June meeting.

Chair Booher has discussed with Missy Crutchfield the possibility of Council members representing the different disability groups going to tour the Auditorium's Community Theatre to ensure that renovations are accessible for all patrons. She will set up a time for the tour in about two weeks.

The Mayor's Council on Disability needs to appoint a secretary. Bea Lyons has graciously volunteered to serve as acting secretary since the resignation of the first one from the Council. Katie Jones accepted the responsibility of serving as secretary for the Council. She will begin with the June 2006 meeting. Bea Lyons will complete the minutes for this May meeting. Chair Booher noted that there are still two slots remaining on the Council for members. She will review the list of interested people and make contact to fill these slots. The goal is to establish a representative Council of all disabilities. Committee assignments are still being made so that the committees may begin their work soon.

Jill Hindman reported that the ByLaws Committee did not meet as planned due to Jim Queen's emergency surgery recently. The committee will get together again as soon as he is available.

Karl Epperson is still working on a special project at Howard High School and asked Bea Lyons to assist with the effort. He also volunteered to assist with future fundraising efforts on behalf of the Council.

Dr. Rick Rader reported for the Healthcare Committee stating that one of the biggest problems for people with disabilities is access to healthcare services not only physical access but also the wisdom of having healthcare concerns. As an example he noted that women with developmental disabilities don't often get pap smears or mammograms simply because the prevailing wisdom of the medical profession is what for? Like wise people with intellectual disabilities don't get dental care and other such things. Dr. Rader will be meeting with Matt Lea to discuss the national movement called the National Movement for Defeat of Stigma that impacts people in healthcare, employment, and vocational training, and housing. There is a movement to have cities declared by an organization "stigma-free". We'll look at criteria for judging stigma-free cities.

Chair Booher will send out an email asking for volunteers to serve on committees to complete the assignments before the June meeting. The Accessibility Committee needs more members, so it can begin work.

Announcements:

Breaking Barriers at Every Step Seminar, sponsored by the West Tennessee Legal Services in partnership with the Tennessee Human Rights Commission and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, will be held Tuesday, May 9, 2006, 9:30am-12:00noon, at the Salvation Army.

Mega Conference, sponsored by the ARC of Tennessee, will be held June 15-18, 2006, in Nashville, with many presentations by people with different disabilities. Contact Mary Ann Schenk or go to the ARC of Tennessee web site for more information.

The next Go-Fest Planning meeting will be changed to Tuesday, May 16, at 10:00am.

The July meeting of the Council will be postponed one week to Monday, July 10, at 3:00pm, due to the July 4th Holiday.

After thanking everyone for coming, Chair Booher called for the

meeting to be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

The next regular meeting of the Mayor's Council on Disability will be held Monday, June 05, 2006, 3:00-4:30pm, in room 1A of the Development Resource Center located at 1250 Market Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Lyons

Beatrice Lyons, Vice Chair/Acting Secretary
Mayor's Council on Disability

